various site specific studies for these projects for preparation of Feasibility Report. These projects are envisaged to be commissioned during 10th and 11th Five Year Plans subject to timely availability of various linkages/clearances and financial tie-ups. The sources to finance these projects would be identified while finalising the Feasibility Report.

Electrification of Villages

†261. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the 5.76 lakh villages in the country have been electrified;

(b) if so, what is the total number of villages which were electrified by the end of March, 1999;

(c) whether it is a fact that in the rural areas domestic consumption of electricity is only upto 34%; and

(d) if not, what are the facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) According to Central Electricity Authority, out of total 5,87,258 inhabited villages, 5,04,823 villages have been electrified as on 31.3.1999.

(c) and (d) As per the 1991 census about 31% houses in the rural areas have been electrified. Further progress would depend upon various external factors such as pending demand and financial capacity of the domestic consumers to avail connections in additon to procedures/policies being adopted by the State Electricity Boards/ Power Departments for the release of connections.

Setting up of Power Project in Assam

262. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received by Government to set up a power project in Assam;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.